

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3 and 24 - 27 have been cancelled, and claims 28 - 36 have been added.
Accordingly, claims 1, 4 - 23 and 28 - 36 are presently pending in the application.

Procedural Matters

The Office Action of January 17, 2003, does not acknowledge the Examiner's review of the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on December 18, 2002. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge review of the IDS filed on December 18, 2002.

I. CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection Under EP 854 045 (*Childers*) in View of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0015066 (*Siwinski*)

Claims 1, 8 - 18 and 20 - 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable under EP 854 045 (*Childers*) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0015066 (*Siwinski*). For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims

At least because independent claims 1, 10, 17, and 21 recite (among other things) allowable subject matter as noted by the Examiner on page 5 of the Office Action of January 17, 2003, it is respectfully asserted that such claims are in condition for allowance and should pass to issue.

Dependent Claims

Claims 4, 5, 7 - 9, 11 - 16, 19 - 20, 22, and 23 are asserted as patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies and further in light of their individual recitations.

B. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection Under EP 854 045 (*Childers*) in View of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0015066 (*Siwinski*) and U.S.P. No. 5,950,403 (*Yamaguchi*)

Claims 2 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable under EP 854 045 (*Childers*) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0015066 (*Siwinski*) and U.S.P. No. 5,950,403 (*Yamaguchi*). For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 has been cancelled, obviating the rejection as to this claim. Claim 18 depends from independent claim 17. Accordingly, claim 18 is asserted as patentable at least by virtue of its dependency (and further in light of its individual recitation).

II. NEW CLAIMS 28 - 36

Because new claims 28 - 36 recite features altogether absent in the prior art as stated in the text of the claims, it is respectfully asserted that such claims are in condition for allowance and should pass to issue.

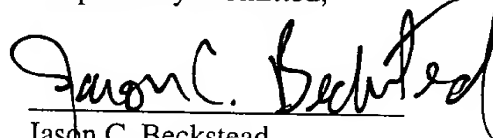
III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1, 4 - 23 and 28 - 36 are patentable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: May 16, 2003

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 2, 3, 24, 25, 26 and 27 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An ink bag for storing ink therein; comprising
a flexible bag body, which is deformable in accordance with consumption of the ink;
an ink supply port, from which the ink stored therein is supplied; and
a non-contact type memory IC, provided on the bag body, wherein:
the bag body includes a first part having a first flexibility and a second part having a
second flexibility which is lower than the first flexibility; and
the memory IC is provided in the second part of the bag body.
4. (Amended) The ink bag as set forth in claim ~~3~~ 1, the second part is an outer
peripheral portion of the bag body.
6. (Amended) ~~The ink bag as set forth in claim 2~~ An ink bag for storing ink
therein, comprising:
a flexible bag body, which is deformable in accordance with consumption of the ink;
an ink supply port, from which the ink stored therein is supplied; and
a non-contact type memory IC, provided on the bag body, wherein:

the bag body includes a first part having a first flexibility and a second part having a second flexibility which is lower than the first flexibility; and,

~~wherein~~ the memory IC is provided in the first part of the bag body.

8. (Twice Amended) The ink bag as set forth in claim 1 or 6, wherein the memory IC stores data indicating an amount of ink remaining therein.

9. (Amended) The ink bag as set forth in claim 1 or 6, wherein the memory IC is placed in the vicinity of the ink supply port.

10. (Amended) A recording apparatus, comprising:

a flexible ink bag for storing ink consumed by the recording apparatus therein, on which a non-contact type memory IC is provided, the ink bag being deformable in accordance with the consumption of ink, and detachably provided in the recording apparatus; and

a data communicator, which opposes to the memory IC to perform non-contact data communication therewith, wherein:

the bag body includes a first part having a first flexibility and a second part having a second flexibility which is lower than the first flexibility; and

the memory IC is provided in the second part of the bag body.

11. (Amended) The recording apparatus as set forth in claim 10 or 28, wherein the ink bag is mounted such that the memory IC is directed downward.

12. (Twice Amended) The recording apparatus as set forth in claim 10 or 28, wherein the memory IC stores data indicating an amount of ink remaining therein.

13. (Amended) The recording apparatus as set forth in claim 10 or 28, further comprising:

a cartridge casing, which houses the ink bag therein; and

a chamber section, which houses the cartridge casing therein.

16. (Amended) The recording apparatus as set forth in claim 10 or 28, wherein a consumed amount of ink is judged in accordance with information indicated by the memory IC.

17. (Amended) An ink bag detachably provided in a printer, for storing ink consumed by the printer therein, comprising:

a flexible bag body, which is deformable in accordance with the consumption of ink; and

a non-contact type memory IC, provided on the flexible bag body so as to be substantially immovable with respect to the printer, regardless of the consumption of ink, wherein:

the bag body includes a first part having a first flexibility and a second part having a second flexibility which is lower than the first flexibility; and

the memory IC is provided in the first part of the bag body.

20. (Amended) The ink bag as set forth in claim 17 or 29, wherein the memory IC is provided on an outer surface of the bag body which directs downward with respect to the printer.

21. (Amended) A container, comprising:

a flexible bag adapted to hold a liquid; ~~and~~

a memory attached to the bag; wherein the memory is a non-contact integrated circuit;

and

a housing for housing the flexible bag, the housing formed with an aperture to expose the memory, the aperture enabling non-contact data communication between the memory and a device external to the housing.

New claims 28 - 36 are added.